

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, line 22 before “**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**”.

The claimed invention, in the field of functional genomics and the characterization of plant genes for the improvement of plants, was made by or on behalf of Mendel Biotechnology, Inc. and Monsanto Company as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement in effect on or before the date the claimed invention was made.